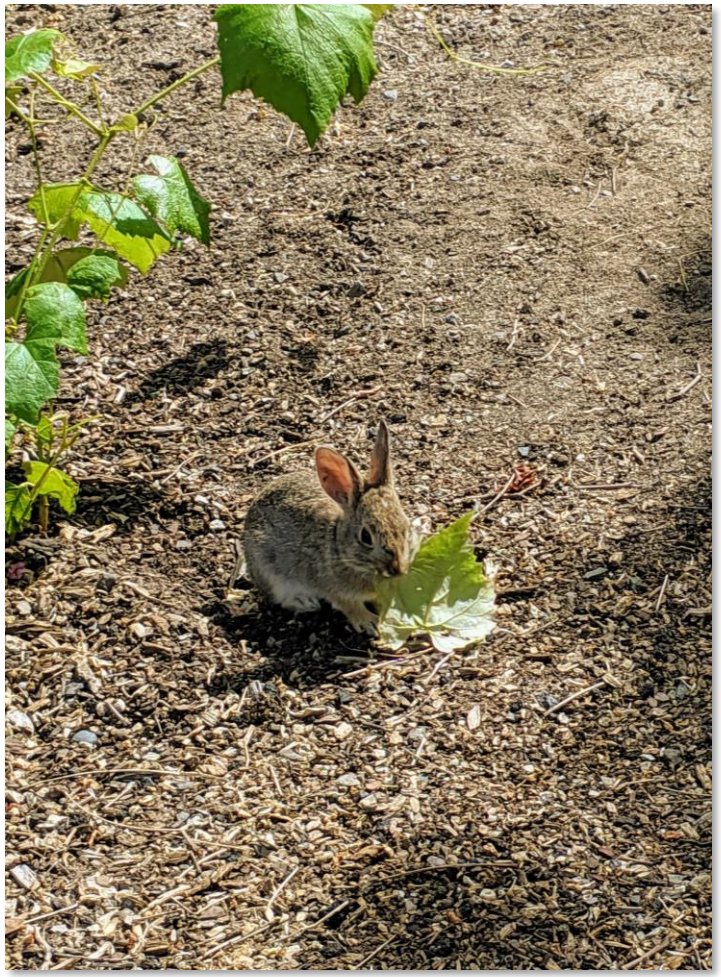

DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT PLANTS FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE

Idaho Firewise Garden
Test Garden and Demonstration Site
for Southern Idaho

All photographs and botanical information curated by Idaho Firewise Staff

IDAHO FIREWISE

FIREWISE DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT ANNUALS & BULBS

Plant Name	Plant Type	Sun/Shade
Allium, Ornamental Onion*	Bulb	Sun, Light Shade
Cleome, Rocky Mtn Beeplant	Annual	Sun
Crocus, Crocus	Bulb	Sun to Part Shade
Fritillaria, Fritillaria	Bulb	Sun, Light Shade
Galanthus, Snowdrops	Bulb	Sun to Part Shade
Narcissus, Daffodils	Bulb	Sun

**Allium – more rabbit resistant than deer resistant, deer occasionally will nibble and leave flower stalks on the ground.*

FIREWISE DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT GROUND COVER

Plant Name	Plant Type	Sun/Shade
Ajuga, Bugleweed	Perennial	Part Sun to Shade
Antennaria, Pussytoes	Perennial	Sun
Artemisia 'Powis Castle'*	Perennial / Subshrub GC	Sun
Cerastium, Snow-In-Summer	Perennial	Sun
Ceratostigma, Plumbago	Perennial	Sun or Shade
Geranium, Cranesbill	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Marrubium, Horehound	Perennial	Sun
Mirabilis, Desert Four O'Clock	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Monardella, Scarlet Monardella	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Stachys, Lamb's Ears	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Teucrium aroanium, Gray Creeping Germander*	Perennial	Sun
Veronica, Turkish Veronica or 'Waterperry Blue'	Perennial	Sun, Light Shade
Vinca, Periwinkle	Perennial	Part Shade

Top: Artemisia 'Powis Castle' in background
Bottom: Mirabilis, Desert Four O'Clock

**Artemisia – some are readily eaten in the Firewise Garden (e.g. 'Sea Foam') – rabbits tend to leave 'Powis Castle' alone.*
**Teucrium has an oil content which is forgiven for its low growth habit – excellent rock garden plant.*

FIREWISE DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT GROUND COVER

L to R and clockwise: Cerastium, Veronica, Vinca, Antennaria paired with 'Angelina' Sedum, Delosperma, Sempervivum, Marrubium, Monardella
Idaho Firewise recommends caging high moisture content plants such as Sedum and Sempervivum for at least the first year.

FIREWISE DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT PERENNIALS

Plant Name	Plant Type	Sun/Shade
Agastache, Hyssop*	Perennial	Sun
Aquilegia, Columbine*	Perennial	Part Shade
Baptisia, False Indigo	Shrubby Perennial	Sun
Erigeron, Fleabane	Perennial	Sun, Light Shade
Euphorbia, Cushion Spurge*	Perennial	Sun, Light Shade
Iris, Bearded Iris	Perennial, Rhizomes	Sun
Kniphofia, Red Hot Poker	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Leucanthemum, Shasta Daisy	Perennial	Sun, Light Shade
Linum, Flax	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Nepeta, Catmint	Perennial	Sun
Penstemon, Beard Tongue	Perennial	Sun
Saponaria, Soapwort	Perennial	Sun
Sphaeralcea, Globe Mallow	Perennial	Sun
Veronica, Speedwell	Perennial	Sun, Light Shade

**Agastache – some oil content, select shorter cultivars, limit numbers.*
**Columbine – tricky initially, more resistant as it mature, recommend caging for at least the first year.*
**Euphorbia – select non-invasive species only, gardener's caution, latex content.*

Top: Linum, Blue Flax
Bottom: Saponaria x lempergii, Giant Flowered Soapwort

FIREWISE DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT PERENNIALS

L to R and clockwise: Agastache, Sphaeralcea, Iris, Baptisia, Erigeron, Leucanthemum, Kniphofia, Euphorbia, Penstemon – 2 examples

FIREWISE DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT SHRUBS

Plant Name	Plant Type	Sun/Shade
Arctostaphylos, Manzanita*	Shrub	Sun
Berberis, Barberry	Shrub	Sun
Buddleia, Butterfly Bush	Shrub	Sun
Buxus, Boxwood	Shrub	Part Shade
Chaenomeles, Dwarf Quince	Shrub	Sun to Part Shade
Chilopsis, Desert Willow	Large Shrub	Sun
Cotoneaster, Cotoneaster	Shrub	Sun to Part Shade
Daphne, Rock Daphne	Shrub	Sun to Part Shade
Mahonia, Oregon Grape	Shrub	Sun to Part Shade
Potentilla, Cinquefoil	Shrub	Sun, Light Shade
Ribes sanguineum, Currant	Shrub	Part Shade
Rhus 'Gro-Low' or 'Autumn Amber', Sumac	Shrub	Sun
Syringa, Lilac	Shrub	Sun
Yucca, Adam's Needle/Yucca	Shrubby Perennial	Sun

**Arctostaphylos – some oil content, very low and slow growing, lower fire risk due to its growth habit.*

Top: Daphne, Rock Daphne
Bottom: Syringa, Lilac

FIREWISE DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT SHRUBS

L and down: Yucca, Chilopsis; Center and down: Mahonia, Berberis, Buddleia, Chaenomeles; R and down: Cotoneaster – 2 examples

ADDITIONAL DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT PLANT MATERIAL

*NOT CURRENTLY BEING TESTED BY IDAHO FIREWISE**

Plant Name	Plant Type	Sun/Shade
Ageratum, Floss Flower	Annual	Sun to Part Shade
Cercis, Redbud	Small Tree	Sun
Dicentra, Bleeding Heart	Perennial	Part Shade
Geum, Avens Hybrids	Perennial	Sun
Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree	Tree	Sun
Eryngium, Sea Holly	Perennial	Sun
Heuchera, Coral Bells	Perennial	Part Shade
Hibiscus, Rose of Sharon	Large Shrub	Sun
Lupinus, Lupine	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Monarda, Bee Balm	Perennial	Sun
Pachysandra, Japanese Spurge	Perennial Ground Cover	Part Shade to Shade
Platycodon, Balloon Flower	Perennial	Sun to Part Shade
Spiraea, Spirea	Shrub	Sun

Photo: Lupinus, Lupine

**Not being tested as of 03/2020 – this information may be updated based on new information in future.*

DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANT PLANT MATERIAL – XERIC BUT OILY

NOT SUGGESTED FOR FIRE-RESISTANCE

Plant Name	Plant Type	Sun/Shade
Achillea, Yarrow	Perennial	Sun
Chamaebatiaria, Fernbush	Shrub	Sun
Fallugia, Apache Plume	Shrub	Sun
Lavandula, Lavender	Perennial Herb	Sun
Perovskia, Russian Sage	Perennial	Sun
Rosmarinus, Rosemary	Tender Perennial Herb	Sun
Salvia dorrii, S. pachyphylla	Perennial	Sun

Sources:

- College, University and Extension Sources
- High Country Gardens
- Idaho Firewise Test and Demonstration Garden
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- Proven Winners

Plant Observations -

Is it extremely fragrant when touched? Oil content, flammable.

How big will it get at maturity? More fuel for the fire, select compact plant species and cultivars.

Does it brown out in August? Loss of moisture content, flammable.

**Disclaimer: deer or rabbit resistant plant material is not a guarantee, it is labeled so because it is less desirable than others – no plant is 100% resistant to a hungry animal – something that works for deer may not work for rabbits, and vice versa – each year may be different depending on weather conditions and available food sources for mammals.*

Cage new plants if possible as they are the most susceptible to damage – e.g., Dianthus, Sedum, Sempervivum, Delosperma – established plants much more resistant.

Key Goal: create a garden that contains few mammal favorites and be accepting of occasional visits.